

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for processing a packet ~~exceeding a predetermined size being~~ received from a physical layer by a MAC (Medium Access Control) layer of an Ethernet ~~to be transmitted to a switch~~, the method comprising ~~the acts performed as said packet is received from the physical layer, said acts comprising~~steps of:

a) storing a received portion of the packet being received from the physical layer;

b) transmitting the stored portion to a switch; and

c) ~~receiving a packet from the physical layer and transmitting the packet to a switch;~~

~~— detecting for an error while transmitting the packet;~~

~~— upon, and detection of~~in the event of, the error being detected during said transmitting,

i) stopping said storing, and said transmitting, of said packet being received; and

ii) sending, to said switch, a signal indicating occurrence of the error

and a signal indicating an end of said packet being received~~the transmission of the packet in which the error is detected to the switch without waiting for a complete reception of the entire packet in which the error is detected; and~~

~~— transmitting a signal indicating an occurrence of the error and a signal indicating an end of the packet to the switch.~~

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 1~~2~~, wherein the method further comprising the step of preparing to receive a next packet from the physical layer after receiving the packet in which the error is detected.

4. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 72, wherein said memory comprises a FIFO (First-In, First-Out) memory.
5. - 6. (Canceled)
7. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said storing is to a storage memory.
8. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the act c) comprises the sub-act of iii) discarding, from said memory, a currently-stored portion, if any.
9. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising the act of determining whether said packet being received from said physical layer exceeds a predetermined size.
10. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein if it is determined that said packet being received does not exceed said size, discarding the under-sized packet in the event of an error while receiving the under-sized packet.
11. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein if it is determined that said packet being received does exceed said size, performing said acts with the size-exceeding packet as said packet of acts a) through c).
12. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein said size is 64 bytes.
13. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising the act of continuing to receive the entire packet in the event said error is not detected.
14. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising the act of continuing to send the entire packet to the switch in the event said error is not detected.

15. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising the acts of receiving, by a switch engine interface, the transmitted portion and said signals.

16. (New) A method for processing a packet exceeding a predetermined size being received from a physical layer by a MAC (Medium Access Control) layer of an Ethernet, the method comprising acts performed as said packet is received from the physical layer, said acts comprising:

- a) storing a received portion of the packet being received from the physical layer;
 - b) transmitting the stored portion to a switch;
 - c) checking whether said packet being received exceeds said size; and,
 - d) if said checking finds that said size is exceeded, and upon, and in the event of, error being detected,
 - i) stopping said storing and said transmitting of said packet being received;
- and
- ii) sending, to said switch, a signal indicating occurrence of the error and a signal indicating an end of the said packet being received.

17. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein said acts further comprise:

- e) if said checking finds that said size is exceeded and if error is not detected, continuing to receive the entire packet.

18. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein said acts further comprise, if said checking finds that said size is not exceeded, discarding the under-sized packet in the event of an error while receiving the under-sized packet.

19. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein said acts further comprise preparing to receive a next packet from the physical layer after receiving the packet in which the error is detected.

20. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the act d) comprises the sub-act of
iii) discarding, from said memory, a currently-stored portion, if any.